

MIKE JOHNSON

4TH DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

WASHINGTON DC OFFICE

327 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-2777
FAX: (202) 225-8039

BOSSIER CITY OFFICE

2250 HOSPITAL DRIVE, SUITE 248
BOSSIER CITY, LA 71111
PHONE: (888) 216-3005
FAX: (318) 584-7294



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM,
HOMELAND SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION
AND BORDER SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND INVESTIGATIONS

VICE CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, POWER AND OCEANS

July 20, 2017

Gladys Marithza Ruiz de Vielman
Ambassador to the United States,
The Embassy of Guatemala
2220 R St NW,
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Ruiz de Vielman:

This letter is to address the ongoing matter of Mr. Zachary Ryan Wilson, which is affecting constituents in our congressional districts. As you know, Mr. Wilson was detained in Guatemala this spring while attempting to return from a mission trip with his church. Members of Mr. Wilson's immediate family, constituents of Louisiana's Fourth District, have reached out requesting any possible assistance to ensure their husband, son, father and relative can come home as quickly as possible.

First, we would like to thank you for your continued courtesies and assistance in this matter, and we look forward to maintaining our dialogue to ensure Mr. Wilson's eventual safe return to the United States. We are thankful to your government that Mr. Wilson, after being incarcerated for some time, has been allowed to receive critical medical assistance following his serious illness there. We are also grateful for the court's understanding surrounding the special circumstances of his delicate medical condition.

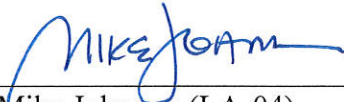
Still, we have continued to receive concerns related to the status of the criminal charges levied against Mr. Wilson. His court hearing is set for this month, and information we have received indicates that serious charges are potentially still being considered.

It is our understanding that the evidence presented shows Mr. Wilson's accused crime was committed without intent of harm or malice. As you know, when attempting to return home to the United States, Mr. Wilson was detained when it was discovered he had mistakenly traveled into the country with a box of hunting rifle bullets when his bag was scanned at airport security. He had unknowingly exited the United States with the bullets in his bag, as they were left over from a previous hunting trip in the United States. The ammunition was not detected upon passing through airport security, and he entered Guatemala without having knowledge of the bullets in the carry-on. Regrettably, according to information provided to me, when Mr. Wilson tried to leave Guatemala he was unaware of the consequences of attempting to return to the United States with the bullets.

We remain concerned that any sentencing that does not take into account the mitigating facts of Mr. Wilson's intent, or that imposes the severe maximum sentence, would be a travesty of justice in this situation. Lastly, as we move forward, we ask for your understanding in our responsibility to our constituencies in ensuring their safety and welfare in accordance with all necessary laws.

Thank you again for your time and assistance in this matter. We eagerly await your reply. To schedule a call please feel free to contact my office at 202-225-2777.

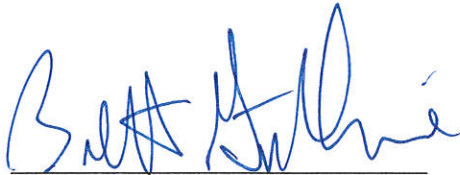
Sincerely,



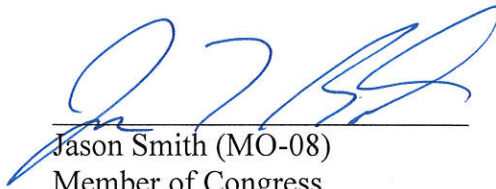
Mike Johnson (LA-04)
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham (LA-05)
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie (KY-02)
Member of Congress



Jason Smith (MO-08)
Member of Congress